

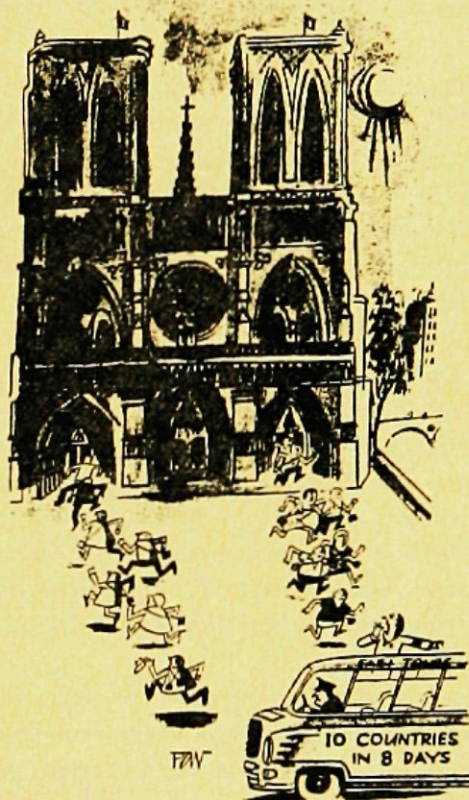
• Abroad •

Elisabethville. In spite of the new flurries and threats from U Thant, the U.S. State Department and the Nkrumah led group of Pan Africanists, Moise Tshombe and his associates are quite cheerful these days — though they are careful not to appear too much so in official pronouncements. The Tshombe government, by successfully meeting the formidable political, economic and military challenge of two complex years, has grown in strength, cohesion and authority. Katanga's economy is in good shape, and much significance is seen by observers in the fact that there has been no labor trouble at the great mines and the industrial establishments. Meanwhile, the federalist tendency, at first confined to Katanga, has spread to the other provinces, and now prevails among the leading Congolese of all parties and tribes. General Mobutu, acting for Cyrille Adoula, failed to integrate the Kasai armies into the Léopoldville army. The ministers dropped from the Adoula cabinet, including the Lumumbist Gbenye, and even representatives of the Lower Congo's Abako party, have been making overtures to Tshombe. Tshombe believes that the latest UN-U.S. moves are an act of desperation spurred by their knowledge that the Adoula regime has never been able to stand on its own feet; that the foundations for a centralized government are evaporating, and that time is on his side.

Algiers. K. S. Karol, an ardent supporter of the FLN revolution, who for some years has been covering the Algerian conflict for the left-wing *New Statesman* (London) and *L'Express* (Paris), had this to say last week: "To travel in Algeria a month after independence is a painful experience for anyone who cares about the future of the country Everywhere I found towns and villages, once thickly populated with Europeans, virtually abandoned. The shutters in almost every house were closed. The shops were barricaded. There were no Europeans to be seen It was these people who formed the basic, skilled personnel of the country. They held all the key posts, even at a very low level, in the communications system, railway, gas and electricity networks Hence it is virtually impossible today to send a telegram from one town to another in West Algeria. The trains are grinding to a stop. There are fewer and fewer petrol stations in working order. You don't have to be a prophet to predict that in a few weeks the breakdown of gas and electricity supplies will bring what remains of the economic life of the country to a complete standstill One is naturally tempted to blame France [but] it must be admitted that a still greater responsibility rests with the Algerian leaders, who from the day of Liberation, have totally ignored their duty towards their fellow citizens and have concentrated exclusively on a ferocious personal battle for power No effort is being made to find replacements for the French officials who have left, or to provide jobs for the millions of unemployed Arabs —

still less to plan for the future I have never before come across such a complete chasm between the leaders of a country and their rank-and-file followers.

Newcastle upon Tyne, England. An upsurge in tattooing, among both males and females, is posing a tricky question to the National Health Service. Youth gangs are using special tattoos as membership badges: a swallow, by one Liverpool gang; a star and sickle by a Newcastle outfit, etc. Young men have their girls tattooed as an ownership brand. As always tattooing is popular among soldiers, sailors and miners. But not a few of the tattooers soon reconsider and apply at a hospital for removal. Are they entitled to this operation—sometimes difficult and lengthy—free from the Health Service? The problem is being hotly debated by hospital authorities and the *Journal of Plastic Surgery*. The Health Ministry has thus far shied away from an official answer.



Geneva. European intelligence services report that there has been another conflict between CIA and the State Department, this time with respect to Algerian developments. CIA (the Europeans state) not only believed that Ben Khedda was likely to win the power struggle but urged that the U.S. actively support his faction on the grounds that Ben Bella, if not actually a Communist, was certain to adopt a pro-Eastern orientation. Walter N. Walmsley, the U.S. Ambassador in Tunis, and William Porter, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires in Algiers, though they also expected Ben Khedda's victory, denied CIA's estimate of Ben Bella and insisted that the U.S. could get along satisfactorily with either Ben. The President accepted the State Department analysis, in line with his general policy of subordinating CIA to State.

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